The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers / L'Association canadienne des professeurs de langues secondes

CASLT/ACPLS

PRESS RELEASE
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Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers honours former Commissioner of Official Languages

Photo (left to right): Miles Turnbull, CASLT President, Dyane Adam, former Commissioner of Official Languages and CASLT Lifetime Membership Award Recipient, and Carolyn King, CASLT Past President.

OTTAWA, December 8, 2006 – A prominent contributor to official language education was honoured for her outstanding achievements at the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT), held in Halifax November 30th.

Dr. Dyane Adam, former Commissioner of Official Languages (1999–2006), was presented with the CASLT Lifetime Membership Award for her leadership and vision in promoting linguistic duality and cultural diversity on a national scale.

Dyane Adam, the fifth Commissioner of Official Languages, was the first woman and the first Francophone from outside Quebec to fill this position. A woman of conviction, she has worked tirelessly for the rights of the French-speaking minority and the status of women, as well as on numerous health and education issues.

Carolyn King, CASLT Past President, underlined Dyane Adam's extraordinary commitment, which was the impetus behind many initiatives and prompted her to play an important role in many national and international organizations.

In 2004, under Dr. Adam's leadership, the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages organized a symposium of official languages which brought together key stakeholders in important collaborative initiatives. In a stirring presentation to the 2004 World Congress of the *Fédération internationale des professeurs de français,* she addressed the unique challenge of positioning French in a context of diversity and noted that diversity reflects social stability and security. "Diversity can only be a stabilizing factor if there are bridges between different cultures, if dialogue is established. Thus the importance of language teaching professionals: teachers' contributions are at the very heart of democracy and stability for society," she declared.

Dr. Adam accepted the award from current CASLT President Miles Turnbull. She thanked the Association and congratulated it on its vision which she believes keeps the Association at the forefront of second language education. "The CASLT is rooted in Canadian tradition. Moreover, it believes in and shares a worthwhile vision. Having a second language brings perspective, a new lens through which to view the world. It also brings respect for diversity. I am proud to join your group of visionaries dedicated to second language education, a group of which I wish to be a part for the rest of my life."

Dr. Adam joins a distinguished list of Lifetime Membership Award recipients who have been honoured by the CASLT for outstanding service.

Established in 1970, the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) increases awareness, appreciation and understanding of the importance of second language learning and teaching throughout Canada and promotes the advancement of professional excellence among language educators.

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